# Before the Federal Elections Commission

In the matter of:

MUR 6182

David Scott for Congress Kwame Vidal, Campaign Manager Michael Williams, Attorney

and

Andre Walker Georgia Politics Unflitered georgiaunfiltered.blogspot.com MAY 2 0 2009 4:07 pm

# Answer of Andre Walker to the complaint filed by David Knox

David Knox alleges Andre Walker violated the Federal Election Campaign Act (FECA) and other applicable Federal Election Commission (FEC) regulations by publishing various news stories, commentary and editorials on the blog, "Georgia Politics Unfiltered."

David Knox is an Individual with a history of making misleading statements designed to distract others from his own questionable electionsering activities.

On multiple occasions throughout the 2007 – 2008 election cycle, Mr. Knox and his company, "DK intermedia," received monetary compensation from the Honeycutt for Congress campaign committee totaling in the amount of \$775 (See Appendix A).

in addition, a 2008 report appearing in the Clayton News-Daily detailed an expenditure in the amount of \$1,385.75 billed to Andrew Honeycutt, the spouse of congressional candidate Deborah Honeycutt, but said to be paid for by "Democrats for Good Government," the organization founded by Mr. Knox (See Appendix B).

When faced with scrutiny from local news media concerning his apparent affiliation with both the Honeycutt for Congress campaign committee and the

organization, "Democrats for Good Government," Mr. Knox denied any connection with the Honeycutt for Congress campaign committee despite well-documented evidence to the contrary (See Appendix C).

1.

Specifically responding to the assertions of paragraph (1), Mr. Walker disputes the claim that the web site, "Democrats for Good Government," is an individual sponsored web site developed for the purpose of informing the citizens of Georgia Congressional District 13 of the record of U.S. Representative David Scott.

Based on the wide-spread news stories concerning Mr. Knox's electioneering activities along with FEC campaign finance reports filed by the Honeycutt for Congress campaign committee, one can only conclude that Mr. Knox and his "Democrats for Good Government" web site is the antithesis of "individual sponsored."

Even though Mr. Knox has continuously asserted that "Democrats for Good Government is an independent entity, he still refuses to reveal how the funding for his web site and organization was obtained (See Appendix D).

Mr. Walker suggests that David Knox, "Democrats for Good Government" and the Honeycutt for Congress campaign committee may have themselves flouted federal election law by not fully disclosing their commonality.

2.

In answer to paragraph (2), Mr. Walker admits to owning and operating the blog, "Georgia Politics Unfiltered."

The blog, "Georgia Politics Unfiltered," was launched in 2005 as a vehicle for Mr. Walker to further his interest in the political process at the federal, state and local levels.

Since its inception, more than 3,000 blog entries -covering a variety of topics including but not timited to the 2008 United States presidential election, the 2006 Georgia gubernatorial election and the legislative sessions of the Georgia General Assembly-appeared on "Georgia Politics Unfiltered."

"Georgia Politica Unfiltered" was frequently cited by traditional news agencies as a reliable source for news stories, commentary and editorials surrounding the Georgia political landscape even being archived on the popular "LexisNexis" web site (See Appendix E, F, G, H, I).

In further answer to paragraph (2), Mr. Walker states that his address is listed as 300 Pointer Court, College Park, Georgia 30349.

3.

Mr. Walker does not deny the allegations in paragraph (3).

4

While Mr. Walker does not specifically deny any of the allegations in paragraph (4), he seeks to clarify that the "internet consulting" described by Mr. Knox was a generic term used to describe a variety of work performed in relation to the modernization of the David Scott for Congress campaign web site.

5.

In answer to paragraph (5), Mr. Walker denies the allegations of Mr. Knox that the blog entries appearing on "Georgia Politics Unfiltered" were intended to influence the outcome of the election contest between Deborah Honeycutt and David Scott.

The eighteen blog entries provided by Mr. Knox in Exhibit B of his complaint included widely disseminated information about the two candidates vying for the elected office of United States Representative from the thirteenth district of Georgia.

Additionally, through his blog, "Georgia Politics Unflittered," Mr. Walker frequently sought out Deborah Honeycutt, the Honeycutt for Congress campaign committee and David Knox for comment on several of the news stories covering the 2008 general election campaign in the thirteenth congressional district of Georgia.

In each case, Mr. Walker identified himself as a blogger for the web site, "Georgia Politics Unfiltered."

Deborah Honeycutt and her campaign committee responded to Mr. Walker and "Georgia Politics Unfiltered" multiple times, including a lengthy guest blog entry by the spouse of Mrs. Honeycutt, Andrew Honeycutt (See Appendix J. K. L. M).

On July 6, 2008, Mr. Knox responded to an inquiry about his organization "Democrats for Good Government" and its connection with the Honeycutt for Congress campaign committee stating, "There is no record on the 2008 FEC report concerning David Knox or DK Intermedia and that is the truth," (See Appendix N).

Mr. Knox confirmed on his own website, "votedavidecottout.com," that Mr. Walker did indeed contact him regarding the association between "Democrats for Good Government" and the Honeycutt for Congress campaign committee (See Appendix O).

Mr. Walker states that if it was his intent to influence the outcome of the election, then he would not have offered David Knox, Deborah Honeycutt or the Honeycutt for Congress campaign committee the opportunity to specifically respond to any of the blog entries appearing on "Georgia Politics Unflitered" concerning the campaign of Mrs.

Honeycutt, the organization "Democrats for Good Government" and its affiliated web site or David Knox.

6.

Mr. Walker states that while it may have been more prudent to communicate to the readers of the blog, "Georgia Politics Unfiltered," the independent work done by him on behalf of the David Scott for Congress campaign committee when posting blog entries concerning the election for United States Representative from the thirteenth district of Georgia, he was under no legal obligation to disclose any payments made to him by the David Scott for Congress campaign committee.

Mr. Walker further states that the blog, "Georgia Politics Unfiltered," is exempt from the laws cited by Mr. Knox as the web site qualifies for a media exemption under 11 CFR 100,73 and 100.132.

7.

Mr. Walker states that the blog, "Georgia Politics Unfiltered," qualifies for a media exemption under 11 CFR 100.73, 100.94, 100.132 and 100.155.

Mr. Walker further states that as the blog, "Georgia Politics Unfiltered," qualified for a media exemption, he was not required to include the disclosures required by the Federal Election Campaign Act on the blog, "Georgia Politics Unfiltered."

8.

Mr. Walker denies the allegations made by David Knox in the conclusion of his complaint.

As Mr. Walker believes the complaint by Mr. Knox is frivolous and wholly without merit, he requests the Federal Elections Commission dismiss the complaint of David Knox alleging a violation of the Federal Election Campaign Act and other applicable Federal Election Commission (FEC) regulations.

Under the penalties of perjury, I declare that I have read the foregoing affidavit and declare that the facts stated in it are true.

STATE OF GEORGIA

COUNTY OF <u>Fayette</u>

Sworn to (or affirmed) and subscribed before me this  $18^{12}$  day of May, 2009, by

Signature of person making statement)

Signature of Notary Bublic

Name of Notacy Typed, Printed or Stamped

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# Appendix A

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**RE: MUR 6182** 

Appendix B RE: MUR 6182

## Scott files FEC charges against Honeycutt's campaign

By JOEL HALL The Clayton News Daily Published on: 10/22/08

The campaign to re-elect U.S. Rep. David Scott (D-Ga) has what it believes is evidence that his Republican challenger, Deborah Honeycutt, falled to disclose the purchase of negative advertising tied to the Democrats for Good Government, an unregistered political committee based in Clayton County.

Honeycutt did not return calls Wednesday, but her husband, Andrew, who also is her campaign administrator did. He said the campaign has done nothing wrong and believes the FEC complaint filed by the Scott campaign is based on "unsubstantiated evidence.

"We're not trying to hide anything," said Andrew Honeycutt. "It seems that he [Scott] is protected from people looking into some of the things he has done. [Accusations of corruption are] not something we created, but something he is running from.

"He is just using the media to do a job campaigning that he can't do himself."

On Tuesday, lawyers for the David Scott for Congress campaign filed an official complaint with the Federal Election Commission (FEC) against Honsycutt for what they believe to be "direct and serious violations of the Federal Election Campaign Act."

In the complaint, the Scott campaign accuses the Honeyoutt campaign of falling to disclose a \$1,385.75 purchase of 25,000, double-aided, 3.5 inch by 8.5 inch "Corrupt" David Scott filers, said to paid for by Democrats For Good Government, an anti-David Scott organization headed by Riverdale-based web designer David Knox.

Included in the complaint is an Aug. 25, 2006 invoice from Boston, Mass.-based 48HourPrint.com in which Andrew Honeycutt, the husband of Deborah Honeycutt, was billed the full \$1,355.75 for the filers. The invoice provided to the Clayton News Daily listed the blind shipping address as 2326 Nicole Drive in Hampton, a former address of Knox. The filers themselves were shipped to "David Knox, 118 North Avenue, Suite A, in Jonesboro."

Michael Andel, spokesperson for the Scott campaign, said the purchase is a direct violation of FEC rules because the Honeycutt campaign falled to communicate the purchase in its October quarterly disclosure form. He believes the filers are an attempt by Honeycutt "to hoodwink the voters into thinking that she's a Democrat.

Andel said the Scott campaign recently received the invoice from an unnamed source. The Clayton News Daily independently verified the invoice number with 48HourPrint.com and confirmed that the filer purchase was billed to 160 Deer Forest Trail, Fayettsville, Ga. The Fayette County Clerk of Superior Court confirmed that the address belongs to Andrew Honeycutt and D. Ann Travia, Deborah Honeycutt's maiden name.

"I have not seen a copy of this invoice," Honeycutt said.

"Money has been blowing in that direction," said Andel. "If you are a candidate and you work with a certain party, then you have to disclose that. These laws came out of Watergate. We can't even go to Staples without having to disclose that, because that is when corruption happens ... when money just flows and they have no idea where it is coming from."

On Tuesday, Knox admitted to previously renting property at 2326 Nicole Drive in Hampton. He also admitted to putting out Scott attack advertisements, as well as the anti-Scott Web site, www.votsoutdavidecott.com, but denies having any involvement with Honeycutt's campaign.

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"I am not connected to this, I didn't pay them for it, and they didn't pay me for it," said Knox. "I have contacted the FEC and they have said that I have the right to publish whatever I want as a private citizen. They said that I could publish whatever I wanted to, as long as I wasn't working with the campaign, which I have not.

"David Scott is a corrupt politician and that is another reason that I am running against him as a Democrat," said Knox.

In June, Honeycutt told the Clayton News Daily that "myself, my campaign staff and my workers have nothing to do with Democrats for Good Government."

However, a disclosure report filed on July 5 for the July 15 primary show two May 7 purchases - one for \$275 and one for \$200 -- made to DK intermedia, a Web deeign company owned by Knox.

Andel believes Honeycutt needs to "come clean" about any ties her campaign has to Knox and Democrata for Good Government.

"Our folks are running into some voters in Clayton County and they have said that they don't even know that she is a Republican," said Andel. "It's an attempt to say that these Democrats don't like Devid Scott. [The filers are] really targeted towards African-American neighborhoods, which I think is very cynical.

"She should spend more time talking about her being a doctor instead of trying to hide her party," said Andel.

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### Rep. Scott clears some debts

By BEN SMITH The Atlanta Journal-Constitution Published on: 08/25/08

David Scott has begun his re-election campaign to the U.S. House by putting his financial house in order.

The Atlanta Democrat, whom critics excoriated last year for falling far behind on his taxes and for using campaign contributions to pay family members, has paid off all his personal local and state tax liens, according to court records. Scott sieo says he and his wife, Alfredia are "on track" to pay off a \$153,918 federal tax ilen against the advertising company they founded.

The Scotts said they cleared their debts, in part, by selling stocks and repaying loans the congressmen made to his campaign. David Scott's personal financial disclosure, released last week, shows he collected between \$22,005 and \$155,000 from stock sales in 2007.

According to campaign finance records, Scott hasn't used political donations to pay his wife's company or family members for campaign work since May 2007, when Politico.com, a Washington blog, posted an article raising questions about Scott's finances.

It is not illegal for congressional candidates to hire family members for their campaigns as long the relatives are providing a service at a marketable price.

Scott's money troubles have emerged as a campaign issue for the three-term U.S. House member, who faces the same two candidates who challenged him in 2008. They are former state Sen. Donzella James (D-College Park) and Republican Deborah Honeycutt.

In 2005, Scott trounced Honeycutt by carrying nearly seven of every 10 votes cast in the November general election. Scott best James by more than 2 to 1 in the July Democratic primary.

In recent weeks, filers attacking Scott for his tax problems and his use of campaign contributions have appeared on maliboxes around the congressments suburban metro Atlanta district.

"Representative Scott's records indicate he cares more about his wealth and comfort than about education, employment and health needs of the citizens of Clayton, Cobb, DeKalb, Douglas, Henry and south Fulton counties," the filer states.

The 13th district is comprised of portions of those six counties.

Scott says he's a victim of a "personal smeer" campaign by GOP operatives using recycled and exaggerated allegations about his family finances to discredit him. He insists he's done nothing wrong.

"The same people who have fashioned this attack against me are the same people who fashioned attacks on [Democrat U.S. Rep.] John Murths and [U.S. House Speaker] Nancy Pelosi," said Scott.

The filer was produced by a group called Democrats for Good Government. David Knox, a Web developer who worked for Honeyoutt's 2006 GOP campaign, heads the group. Both Knox and Honeyoutt say Knox is not working for the Republican candidate's 2006 campaign.

Knox said his anti-Scott campaign is an independent effort, though he added that he has supplied filers for James campaign volunteers to distribute. James said that's news to her.

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"I did not put them out," said James. "However I don't have a problem with them being put out because people should be informed before they vote."

Last September, a Washington-based ethics watchdog group called Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington included Scott on its list of "25 most corrupt" members of Congress. The group based its ranking on news accounts of Scott's financial troubles.

The group also called on the U.S. Justice Department to investigate the Atlantz congressmen.

Scott said neither the Justice Department nor any other investigative agency has contacted him or any of his staff members since CREW called for the probe.

"A lot of these allegations are political, and they have exaggerated some very difficult financial situations," said Scott. "We feel victimized to a certain degree. ... They've taken these financial situations and blown them up in a way to suggest that I'm a bad person."

Fulton County records show 16 local, state and federal tax liens, totaling \$167,718, were filed against Scott and his wife's company, The Dayn-Mark Co., between 1996 and 2007. Court records show Scott paid off all \$10,012 the couple owed in overdue personal property taxes on May 29, 2007, six days after publication of the Politico.com story.

Dayn-Mark, however, has not paid off a \$153,918 tax lien filed by the IRS against the company in December 2006, records show.

The Scotts founded Dayn-Mark in the late 1970s, according to Michael Andel, Scott's chief of staff. They named the business after their two daughters, Dayna Vidal and Marcye Scott, who are both employees of the company. David Scott stepped down as the company's president and chief executive officer before his 2002 election to Congress. Alfredia Scott is the company's current CEO, Vidal is chief financial officer and Marcye Scott is Dayn-Mark's secretary, according to records filed with the Georgia Secretary of State.

Federal election law treats assets owned by incumbent congresspersons and their spouses, from which both derive income, as shared assets that must be disclosed. Scott's latest disclosure lists the company's net worth at between \$1 million and \$5 million.

Alfredia Scott said the company's actual IRS tax debt was never as large as the \$153,918 sum recorded on the item.

in November 2007, she said she obtained a letter from the IRS, a copy of which she gave to The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, that set the company's tax debt at \$57,015.

Alfredia Scott also gave the newspaper copies of credit card receipts and bank statements showing that, since December, Dayn-Mark has made seven payments totaling \$45,000 to the IRS.

IRS officials declined to comment on the Scotts' finances.

While she acknowledged that Dayn-Mark had fallen behind in paying the IRS, Alfredia Scott said the lien was much larger than the company actually owed because she had used the wrong texpeyor identification number when paying Dayn-Mark's texas. The lien shows that the company falled to pay federal texas between 2003 and 2005.

Likewise, she said her husband's campaign disclosures also give an inflated impression of how much Dayn-Mark profited from her husband's political campaigns. Appendix C RE: MUR 6182

Records show that between 2002, when Scott was first elected to Congress, and 2007, the Atlanta congressman disbursed roughly \$500,000 in reimbursements and compensation for Dayn-Mark and family members for campaign-related work.

Alfredia Scott said only a fraction of the campaign dollars given to Dayn-Mark actually went to the company. The ilon's share was spent on newspaper, radio and biliboard advertising for the congressmen's campaign, she said.

Devid Scott said that, while it is neither liegal nor uncommon for candidates to hire family members to work on their campaigns, he stopped the practice.

"We don't even went to have the appearance of having done anything wrong," Scott said.

Appendix D RE: MUR 6182

# **Ga.'s Scott Says Opponent Funds Smear Campaign**

By Sen Evens
The Associated Press
Published on: 10/22/08

Democratic Rep. David Scott of Atlanta filed a federal complaint Tuesday accusing his Republican opponent of secretly funding an underground ameer campaign that paints Scott as corrupt.

The complaint against Deborah Honeycutt involves thousands of Sters and a Web site calling on voters to throw Scott out of office.

Scott's campaign released an invoice from a Boston printing company showing that Honeycutt's husband, Andrew, paid for 25,000 filers in August and had them delivered to the head of a group called Democrats For Good Government.

Scott says the invoice proves that the Honeyoutt campaign is concealing the expenses in its Federal Election Commission reports and using Democrats for Good Government as an illegal front group to mislead voters in the heavily Democratic district.

Honeycutt's husband, Andrew, who heads her campaign, called it a "bogus complaint" but said the Honeycutts needed more time to review it before fully responding.

"The campaign needs to be very careful about how we answer a complaint which is based upon an alleged invoice that we haven't seen and an invoice that we need to take a close look at to see if it's an honest invoice or a fraudulent invoice," he said in an interview.

Asked if the Honeycutts have financially backed Democrats For Good Government, he declined to answer directly and said, "to our knowledge, that's a separate organization."

Devid Knox, who formed Democrats For Good Government and has worked for Honeycutt's campaign as an internet consultant, denied receiving any filers paid for by the Honeycutts and said his group has never received financial backing from them or the campaign.

"I don't know anything about the invoice," he said. "As far as I'm concerned the invoice must be bogue."

He said Democrats For Good Government - whose Web site address and literature misspells government as "government" - is an independent organization. He declined to say where it gets its money.

Under campaign finance law, independent groups advocating for or against a specific candidate must register with the FEC and report their funding sources if they spend more than \$250. Democrats For Good Government has not registered, and Knox said he clidn't think he was required to.

Scott's compleint accuses Knox and the Honeycutts of numerous FEC violations, arguing that they "have engaged in a conspiracy to mislead the voters of the 13th Congressional District of Georgia by suggesting that the Democratic Party opposes the candidacy of David Scott."

"There is no telling how much of that money is going to David Knox's front group and other possible itegal activities," Scott campaign epokesman Michael Andel said, declining to say where the campaign obtained the printing invoice. "The Honeycutt campaign needs to come clean with voters."

An FEC spokesman said the agency does not comment on pending complaints.

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Honeycutt, a physician from Fayettaville, Ga., challenged Scott two years ago, losing with about 31 percent of the vote.

Her campaigns have gamered more attention for prolific fundralsing than anything else. Using a national direct-mailing campaign, she has raised more than \$4 million this cycle, spending aimost all of it on consultants and other fundralsing expenses such as postage, printing, and purchasing Republican donor lists.

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# Appendix E

**RE: MUR 6182** 



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Appendix F RE: MUR 6182

#### THE SITUATION ROOM

Pat Robertson Changes Geers; Bush Speaks to Military Femilies; BRAC Accepts Most of Pentagon List; Suicide Bomber Was Previously Prevented from Entering U.S.: More Armstrong Allegations

Aired August 24, 2005 - 17:00ET

THIS IS A RUSH TRANSCRIPT. THIS COPY MAY NOT BE IN ITS FINAL FORM AND MAY BE UPDATED.

WOLF BLITZER, CNN ANCHOR: Here in THE SITUATION ROOM, we're plugged into almost everything that's happening online. Bioggers around the country are reacting to the military base closings.

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Our Internet reporters, Jacki Schechner and Abbi Tatton standing by with the situation online. What's going on, guys?

JACKI SCHECHNER, BLOG REPORTER: Wolf, It's a really good opportunity to check in with what people are saying in the communities themselves that are being affected by these closings.

First, to Georgia, where Fort Gillem and Fort McPherson set to be closed. This is a progressive group blog, blogfordemocracy.org, disappointment. "So much for all those red state perics," they say.

it's more than disappointment, outrage, Georgia Politics Unfiltered. "How could they?" Not so much over Fort Gillem, but specifically Fort McPherson, talking about how this is the home to the 3rd Army, one that Patton commanded at one point. It has a very great history, especially during World Wer II. "How could they? This is just plain wrong."

Over to New Jersey. "Who do our representatives represent?" — It would be Fort Monmouth that's going to be closed there — talking about the tax return that Jersey gets from the federal government. This is going to reduce that amount of money, in their eyes, now that that bese set to be closed.

And finally wanted to check out Fort Monroe in Virginia. That's the one set to be closed there. This is commonwealthwatch.biogspot.com. They feel very sorry for the people who are going to be affected, but they say the problem is, "Take a look at the big picture, \$49 billion in savinge over the next 20 years."

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## Georgia political bioggers enliven the debate

By JILL YOUNG MILLER
The Atlanta Journal-Constitution
Published on: 10/02/06

Jason Pye's obsession is politics. If he brings up the subject, though, his girlfriend leaves the room.

So he found another outlet.

"I'm one person with a computer," he said. "My opinion counts."

When Pye, 25, len't toiling as a customer service rep at an insurance company, he's weighing in on his personal Web site, JasonPye.com. He started his Web log a year ago, before he was elected chairman of the state's Libertarian Party, "so I don't get ulcers," Pye said.

"I'm not the type of person who can keep quiet."

Pye, of McDonough, is part of a small but talkative army of Georgians who seize on political news, goselp, innuendo and juicy morsele, from the governor's race to the most local of contests. In their blogs, they spread information, trumpet their views and duel with others.

"Slogging is sort of the modern-day version of the public square," said Amy Morton, 46, a Macon Democrat who blogs on Georgia Women Votel Even though "most people don't read the blogs," they're potent forces, Morton said. "You can get information out immediately, and that's powerful."

Said Erick Erickson, 31, who runs the popular Republican-leaning site Peach Pundit, "It allows people in a way that they can't do through the newspaper or TV or the radio to participate in the political conversation — and fairly instantly, too."

Georgians by the dozens blog about politics, but it's hard to gauge their influence. A long list of their blogs, spanning the spectrum, can be found on The Buzz Report, where Gwinnett County GOP activist Buzz Brockway, 40, said he likes to blog "about exciting stuff like tax policy." He and others would argue that bloggers are engaged in something more than talking among themselves.

Democrat Andre Walker, 22, considers his blog, Georgia Politics Unfiltered, a handy supplement to mainstream news. "If you want some commentary on it, then that's what I try to do," said the Georgia State University student, who often blogs from campus computer labs and is a frequent guest blogger on other sites.

Some blogs attract more readers than others. On the high end, Peach Pundit averages about 1,200 visits a day, according to its site summary.

David Kline, co-author of the 2005 book "Blog! How the Newest Media Revolution is Changing Politics, Business and Culture," said the numbers aren't that important. "What's really important is that where you see political blogging you see influencers," he said. "They're the most active politically, and they have an impact. Maybe not as much as \$10 million TV advertising campaign, but they can mobilize the activists."

Certainly politicians and political reporters are paying attention to the biogs.

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Word is that Gov. Sonny Perdue's campaign staffers are barred from reading Peach Pundit at work, they were spending so much time on the site. Campaign spokesman Derrick Dickey wouldn't confirm or deny that.

Political biogs have evolved quickly.

"Blogs originally began as a political weapon for the two parties," said Matt Towery, CEO of insiderAdvantage, an Atlanta-based political politing and electronic media firm. They "were lobbing builets or granades at the other party, and some would get into fighting among themselves."

Eventually a "new level" of blogs emerged, with lots of dialogue about what people think about candidates and issues, said Towery, a former Republican state legislator.

Still, political blogs eren't for the faint of heart.

Bill Simon, 46, a Marietta Republican who blogs on his site, Political Vine, and others, doesn't healtate to go for the jugular.

"I go after Republicans who I believe are not holding the Republican standard," Simon said. During the primary, he lambested former Christian Coalition leader Raiph Reed, who was seeking the GOP nomination for lieutenent governor. Simon went so far as to call Reed "the greatest liar of our modern-day era."

With Reed out of the running, Simon now turns his ardor to other matters. "Once a week or twice a week! get really riled up and I post," said Simon, who runs an advertising and sales promotion company when he's not blogging. "Sometimes people think I'm off my rocker, sometimes people agree with me."

Marty Ryell is campaign manager for Karen Handel, the GOP nominee for secretary of state, who was the target of a nasty blog attack. "The unforkmate part is that anyone can get on a blog and say whatever they want, whether it's true or not," Ryell said. "Sometimes it can make it out into the mainstream, where mass people are seeing it."

During a tough contest for the Republican nomination, Handel contended supporters of state Sen. Bill Staphens were behind a "whisper campaign" to falsely accuse her on blogs of being a leablan.

Her husband, Steve, jumped into the fray on Peach Pundit.

"I know in politics that you have to develop some thick skin for some of the attacks that happen during a campaign," he wrote. But "It is extremely hard to sit by and see my wife of 14 years being called a leablen."

With that, the offending comments stopped, Ryali said.

Will Hinton, 34, a commercial real estate consultant who lives in Brookhaven, despairs about the current state of political blogs. (Hinton, who considers himself a nonpartisan conservative, earned some fame among Georgia bloggers when he blogged that he would run against U.S. Rep. Cynthia McKinney If no one else stepped up in the Democratic primary. Hank Johnson did, and won.)

"I think both sides are equally guilty of trying to demonize their opponents instead of trying to find common ground," Hinton said. So in September he isunched the site Good Will Hinton. His goel: "To foster disloque and discussion between people on both sides."

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Not everyone's intentions are so pure. Erickson, at Peach Pundit, said paid political operatives sometimes pose as ordinary citizens and try to infiltrate blogs. He tries to "expose them, block them or get them to admit who they're working for" after ferreting them out by tracking their internet addresses or e-mails.

Such cloak-and-dagger drames occur more at the federal than state level, said Erickson, who also blogs for RadState.com.

Despite occasional nastiness, when it comes to political blogs the good outweighs the bad, Ryall said. "It allows people to communicate with each other, and it's certainly a good venue for candidates to express their opinions and supporters to express their opinions."

Erickson, a political consultant and lawyer who lives in Macon, encourages differing opinions on Peach Pundit. For instance, Bobby Kahn, chairmen of the Democratic Party of Georgia, is a guest commentator. And while Erickson himself is a passionate Republican, "I'm not afraid to say a Republican has done something stupid."

Sometimes, he said, readers who think he should toe the party line get so worked up they turn to an old-fashioned mode of communication.

They telephone him at home to complain.

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Democrats' Convention Pool: is it All Wet? Bioggers Say DNC List Lacks Racial Diversity

By JOSE ANTONIO VARGAS The Washington Poet Published on: 05/27/08

Forget the row over RFK, the latest superdelegate tally or Saturday's sure-to-be contentious meeting of the Rules and Bylaws Committee.

With the Democratic National Convention less than three months away, and with Web pundits playing an even bigger role during the four-day event, a whole other drama is chewing up the biogosphere — and the often unmentioned Afrosphere.

#### A small tasts of the commentary:

"OK, folks, black bioggers to the back of the bus," read one post on the African American Political Pundit, one of the more prominent national black biogs. A posting on Georgia Politics Unfiltered, a state biog, read: "Jim Crow releas his ugly head . . . at the Democratic Convention."

The protracted primary has been like a bottomises glass to thirsty national and local bioggers — so much to biog about! — and about 400 of them have applied to attend the convention. Although four years ago the credentialing of 30 bioggers in a single pool was a historic event, this August there are two biogger pools: a State Biogger Corps and a General Biogger Pool.

The State Corps is considered the more elite; its 55 bioggers will have floor access all four days, alt next to their state delegations and be hooked up to the internet. Those not chosen for the State Corps are competing for spots in the General Pool, which will have rotating floor access. The State Corps list was announced nearly two weeks ago; the General Pool list, DNC officials say, will be released this week.

Natalle Wyeth, spokeswomen for the convention committee, says criteria for selecting State Corpe bioggers were readership, online ratings and focus on local and state politics. The General Pool will also be selected on the basis of readership and online ratings, she adds, with an emphasis on bioggers covering "national politics to niche issues of interest to specific communities."

Race was not a factor in the selection of the State Corps. Whath repeatedly save.

But, to the frustration of black bioggers, the list appears to be mostly white — during a primary race in which black voters turned out in droves in Georgia, South Carolina and Mississippi. And, they add, this pool is for coverage of a convention that might very well see the first African American presidential nomines.

In other words, this constitutes convention drams and, rightly or wrongly, people are getting called out, e-mails are being exchanged, accountability is being demanded. Francis L. Holland, one of the vocal black bioggers, sent e-mails to DNC officials asking that 15 black-operated biogs be added to the State Corps. "There is nothing 'Democratic' about an all-white Democratic National Convention floor biogging corps," he wrote in an e-mail. Holland is also saking for the inclusion of 15 Latino-operated biogs.

L.N. Rock, a Silver Spring-based information technology professional and founder of the African American Political Pundit blog, likens this "black shut-out" in the State Corps to an "Tm sick-and-tired-of-being-sick-and-tired" Fannie Lou Harner moment. The civil rights activist and Mississippian challenged her state's all-white delegation at the 1984 Democratic convention.

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"This is all very puzzling to me — and to a lot of black bioggers," says Rock, who didn't apply for the State Corps because he biogs about national issues. "The Democratic National Committee says it wants to be inclusive. It wants to have a big tent. And then this? What were they thinking?"

it's a complicated — and sensitive — issue. For all its openness and accessibility, the Web can be a segregated, isolated place. You read what you want to read, you link on what you want to link on. Take Hollywood gossip. There's Perezhilton.com, the reigning king of celeb dish, but there's also TheYBF.com, short for Young, Black &Fabulous, one of the must-click-on black celeb sites.

In the growing political Web, many of the most popular liberal blogs — save for DallyKos, created by Markos "Kos" Mouliteas Zünigs, whose heritage is in part Latino — are run by white men, as was evident at last year's YearlyKos blogspalooza, the gathering of the who's who of the netroots crowd. It's not because the blogspaloeza, the loggers say, but because, at about five years old, it is still evolving.

D. Yobachi Boswell, a black biogger in Nashville, applied for the State Corps pool but didn't make it. He says he doesn't have a problem with the Tennessee biogger who was chosen, KnoxViews.com. He hadn't heard of it before — "Our spheres of biogging don't collide," he says — and he can't name another black-operated biog in his state besides his own, BlackPerspective.net.

"This is a historic moment," Boswell says, "Everyone wants a part of it."

He's waiting to see if he gets into the General Pool.

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### Bloggers flex muscles in Denver

By FRANK JAMES
The Chicago Tribune
Published on: 08/27/08

DENVER -- The Mile-High City is teeming with bioggers covering the Democratic National Convention, the undomesticated ones who write for the partisan biogs and the tamer corporate versions like yours truly.

The political bioggers are here because this week Denver is the center of the Democratic Party's political universe. They're here because the national parties know bioggers represent an important new channel for communicating their messages and thus have significantly boosted their outreach to these citizen journalists.

They're here because a netroots power like DailyKos has joined internet powers like Google and Digg and local organizations like ProgressNow and the Allience for a Sustainable Colorado to bankroli work and discussion spaces in a downtown office building that this week is called the Big Tent a few blocks from the Pepal Center. It's sort of a biogger convention within the larger Democratic convention.

So highly regarded are the political bioggers this year that political and media big shots as well as rankand-file old media/new media hybrids like myself are making the pilgrimage to the biogger lounges at the Big Tent and the Pepsi Center to see what's on their minds.

On Tuesday, Sen. Ken Salazar of Colorado, in his signature cowboy hat, was doing interviews. Not long after he left, CBS News anchor Katle Couric appeared and waded into the crowded biogger workspace to see what they were up too. Even Death Cab for Cutie stopped by.

And what are these bioggers up to? The answers to that are as varied as the bioggers themselves. Some are out to expose the all too cozy relationships between lawnskers and lobbylsts. Others are here because of their interests in state and local politics. Still others are searching for a movement that seems elusive.

This year, the Democratic National Committee credentialed nearly 100 national political blogs and 55 state blogs, with the state bioggers for the first time given floor access so they can sit with their state's delegations. Beyond that, about 500 blogs out of were 3000 applicants were given workspace at the Big Tent.

Many of the bioggers were given the same access to DNC press conferences as reporters for corporate media.

Among them was Jane Hamsher, of the well-known progressive blog Firedoglake.

When the convention week was barely underway, Hamsher was out doing ambush interviews of guests entering a party thrown by AT&T for the congressional Blue Dogs, House Democrats who represent conservative districts and, as a result, are further to right than most of their fellow House Democrats.

Hemsher saw a link between the AT&T party and the Blue Dogs support for immunity for telecom as part of the recently passed update to the Foreign intelligence Surveillance Act

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She held the video camera while Glonn Greenwald of Salon asked the partygoers who they were and if they knew who was throwing the party all as the citizen journalists were being confronted by police who wanted them to move along. (The video is up on her site.)

"We asked 25 people and not one of them knew who was throwing the party," she said not believing for a second that there was that much ignorance afoot in Deriver. "That was one of the more interesting things we've done, asking what's the relationship between the party and lobbyists?" Hamsher said. She says that kind of gueritia journalism is what makes bioggers a welcome addition to American democracy. They don't want to be chummy with politicians like so many professional journalists. If don't need to talk to Rahm Emanual." Hamsher said.

But of course, if Emanuel or any other politician wants to tell them things, that's OK too. "The Obsma campaign is friendly. They know we often drive the media talking points," said Nate Silver of the Fivethirtyeight.com blog.

Over at the Pepal Center's biogger's journe, Andre Walker, a 24-year-old biogger from Georgia, was a delegate at the Democrate' 2004 convention in Boston and tried to get to the Deriver convention using a similar route.

Trouble was, he lost his election. His Georgia Politics Unfiltered blog became his ticket in when the DNC awarded him a credential. A Hillary Clinton supporter (Obama didn't have enough experience to suit him) Walker planned on chronicling the Georgia delegation at the convention.

"A couple of people i talked to in the Georgia delegation said even if Hillery releases her delegates, they still plan to vote for her on the first ballot, " said Welker who offered Oberna a warning. "Oberna needs to be delicate (with Clinton supporters) because he doesn't need to lose 18 million votes to lose the election, just a fraction of that."

Knowing Georgia as he does (he's the first biogger in Georgia history to get floor privileges to the state senste floor) Walker wonders about the 30 campaign offices Oberna's team has opened in Georgia including one in Forsyth County.

Not a single elected official is a Democrat. "Somebody in that office said they didn't think they could win the county, they just want to get as many votes across the state as possible. If (Obama) gets 48 percent i'll be impressed. I'm pegging it at 45 percent." That would be marginally better than the 41 percent John Kerry won in 2004.

Daniel DiRito from Deriver was also setting up shop at the Pepal Center's biogger's lounge when I struck up a conversation. He had one of the more ambitious biogging goals. He intended to live stream the convention on his site www.thoughttheater.com.

Formerly in commercial real estate, DiRito is a seeker. He sold his home, spent four months traveling the world to acratch a long-time litch, then returned to blog full-time. DiRito ween't a partisen during the primaries. "Truthfully, I could've been happy with either Barack or Hillary," he said.

He has seen the tenelone splitting the Democratic Party this year within his own family. "My mother hung up on my sister because she canvassed for Barack. She was a staunch Hillary supporter."

DIRIto has been multing over the change message that defines the Obama campaign and the Democratic effort this year.

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There needs to be a hunger for change before it can happen but he hasn't sensed in Denver such a hunger among them could be transformed into a movement. It's not there among the bioggers and other progressives he's encountered at the Pepel Center or at the Big Tent panel discussions.

"I see the same divisiveness" among bioggers that he saw in his family. "If something doesn't go the way a lot of bioggers think it should go, the first thing they'll say is "I'm so over this election..." I don't think change comes without compromise" and he sees too little of that, as reflected by the dissension in Democratic ranks. "A lot of bioggers are stirring the pot," he said. "But I'm not so sure what they're cooking."

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# Guest Biogger: Andrew Honeycutt, Congressional Candidate Spouse

By ANDREW HONEYCUTT For Georgia Politics Unfiltered Published on: 09/11/08

As an African American I am so disappointed with the Party of Lincoln that would [disenfranchise] Black delegates. The second highest number African American delegates we've ever had was in 1992 [107 delegates and we felt the Republican Party was taking off. But now the Republican Party seems to be denying it's the Party of Lincoln. They're acting more like the Party of Thomas Jefferson.

Thomas Jefferson created a black family and a white family. He ignored and denied the black family. The Republican Party was created to free the slaves but now they ignore and deny that we exist. They make deals with Democrats to make sure that a corrupt Democrat stays in power in the 13th Congressional District. They won't support arguebly the most qualified Republican challenger in the state, Deborah Honeycutt.

It's not personal, it's not partisan; it's about power. It's personal to me right now. I'm speaking as a husband who has conservative views and has integrity. It's time for us to quit playing these damn games; quit allowing the old guard African American civil rights leadership to make deals against the black community to maintain their political clout and cache. They'd rather enjoy political power then serve the people. They know David Scott is corrupt. They're his cohorts in an array of contemptible ways. The media ain't going to upset the Andrew Young's, the Rev. Joe Lowery's, and the John Lewis'.

The [redistricting] deal is that most Georgia districts can be Republican, but Democrats can have Hank Johnson's district, John Lewis's district and you can have David Scott's district. Those are safe Democrat districts; Republicans have made a deal to not even campaign or compete in those Congressional districts. That's wrong.

It's an insidious back-room deal by the reigning political power structure that says it's airight for Democrats to control local Atlanta government, Clayton County local government and DeKalb local government because that's where the black people live. But the jobs and economic opportunity aren't coing there; only despair.

GOPAC chairman Michael Steele and one other Black man from Texas were the only African Americans who spoke at the convention. This is the Perty of Lincoln that had no true black representation. The rank and tile Republicans are really good people. They want to see everybody have an opportunity. It is the Georgia Republican leadership; it is the national Republican leadership. Their biggest fear is if they get behind a black candidate like Deborah [Honeycutt] it might bring out the black vote and that will help the Democrate.

I'm not going to alt idly by and let the Republican Party Ignore us and let the Democratic Party pimp us. It's been happening for years. What I am ashemed of is John Lewis and Andy Young, who used to be champions for the underclass, and now they've gotten so fat as Democratic leaders they think Democrats are more powerful than God.

I don't care what they say. They have no record to stand on in Georgia. All they have is their own self-interest. They haven't done anything since the 1960's. They're in bed with the same Democrats who best them over the head and hosed them; the same people who pimped them then and are pimping them now!

Andrew Honeycutt is married to Republican congressional candidate Deborah Honeycutt and is also an "executive" on his wife's campaign.

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# Deborah Honeycutt Accuses David Scott Of Being Missing in Action

By ANDRE WALKER Georgia Politics Unfiltered Published on: 09/19/08

13th district Republican Deborah Honeycutt has gone on the attack accusing her November opponent, U.S. Congressman David Scott (D - Georgia), of being a flawed and inept leader.

"When the voters in the 13th Congressional District needed [Congressman]Scott, he was missing in action." Honeycutt said.

Honeycutt went on to say that Scott had falled to use his influence as a member of Congress to assist students in the Clayton County School System. However, a new report from the Clayton News Daily seems to contradict Honeycutt's claims.

U.S. Congressman David Scott (D-Ga.) is pleading with college admissions counselors everywhere to overlook the Clayton County school system's recent accreditation loss during acceptance considerations for graduating seniors.

"Let me be clear: The loss of accreditation was not due to curricular deficiencies within the school system, but by the actions of members of the Clayton County Board of Education over the past several years," Scott wrote in an op-ed piece appearing in the American Association of Collegiste Registrars and Admissions Officials newsletter. "Plegued by ethics violations, micromanagement and equabbling, the achool board was often composed of individuals who placed their interests ahead of the students and families they represented as elected officials." [Source: Clayton News Delly, "College admission problems sheed for Clayton pupils," September 19, 2008]

Unfortunately for Clayton County students, Florida's eleven public colleges and universities won't admit students who graduated from an unaccredited school system [Source: Atlanta Journal Constitution, "11 Florida universities won't take Clayton County grads," September 19, 2008].

Still, contrary to what Deborah Honeycult may believe, Clayton County's Congressmen, David Scott, is not missing in action. Congressmen Scott is busy doing his job; fighting for the students in the struggling Clayton school system to be able to attend the college of their choice.

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# Deborah Honeycutt Deflects Criticisms Of Her Campaign's Finances

By ANDRE WALKER Georgia Politics Unfiltered Published on: 10/21/08

Meet Deborah Honeycutt.

She's a physician. She's a conservative Republican. And she's running for Congress in the 13th district.

Yesterday, Deborah Honeycutt participated in a debate sponsored by the Atlanta Press Club where she spent a considerable amount of time answering questions concerning her campaign's finances and fundralsing tactics.

"I am so happy I have gotten support from all over the country," Honeycutt replied to a query about her campaign's contributors. "It would be hard to raise money of that amount within the [13th]district."

According to FEC reports filed September 30th, the Honeycutt campaign raised 4,373,410 mostly from contributors outside of the district. However, the campaign also spent \$4,075,991 leaving it with \$317,285 in the bank and \$299,383 worth of debt.

Honeycutt has been criticized in the past for raising large amounts of campaign cash, yet having little to show for it in the form of a legitimate electioneering machine [Source: Georgia Politics Unflittened, "Deborah Honeycutt: Over \$1.7 Million Raised & Still Nothing To Show For It," July 1, 2008]. Andrew Honeycutt, the candidate's spouse and a consultant on the campaign, responded by saying \$1.2 million had been spent on television spots airing on Corncast cable and local ABC affiliate WSB-TV.

Despite the Honeycutt campaign's assertions to the contrary, Clark Atlanta University political science professor William Boone said Deborah Honeycutt's candidacy didn't seem to be well organized.

"It doesn't come close to looking like a \$4.3 million campaign," Boone said. [Source: Atlanta Journal Constitution, "Non-incumbent raises \$4.3 million for her campaign," October 22, 20081

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# Republican Honeycutt Lashes Out At Media & Calls Ads By Scott Campaign "Lies"

By ANDRE WALKER Georgia Politics Unfiltered Published on: 10/30/08

Republican Deborah Honeycutt, who is challenging Democratic Congressman David Scott in Georgia's 13th district, called the recent negative ada against her lies and criticized the media for not reporting on the alleged ethical misgivings of the three-term Democratic incumbent.

"They [the Scott campaign] are in panic, desperation mode," Honeycutt said of the negative ada against her. "They don't know what to do because my message is reconsting all over the district, so they have to resort to lies."

Responding to a new radio ad by David Scott suggesting that Honeycutt doesn't want to be around black people, campaign manager Michael Murphy added that Honeycutt was a member of the NAACP.

Honeycutt continued to deflect questions on the recently filed FEC complaint filed by the Scott campaign claiming that her campaign had violated campaign finance rules by funding the group "Democrats for Good Government."

"I haven't received any notification of a complaint," Honeycutt said. "All I know is the garbage my opponent has put out. I have asked my staff to look into it and when I know, you'll know, and we'll go forward from there."

Honeycutt went on to criticize the media for not reporting more on the allegations of corruption by Congressman Scott.

"There seems to be very little media attention on Mr. Scott and the things that other people have asked about him and his record," Honeycutt said. "I'd like to see you [the media] delve into those and print some articles about those things."

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# "Democrats for Good Government" Leader Gets Money From Republican Candidate

By ANDRÉ WALKER Georgia Politics Unflitered Published on: 07/06/08

Despite telling the Atlanta Journal Constitution</a> otherwise, a company owned by the head of a group called "Democrate for Good Government" received two payments for "internet consulting" from Republican Deborah Honeycutt's congressional campaign.

DK Intermedia, who lists Honeycutt's 2006 campaign website in its portfolio, was paid a total of \$525 by Honeycutt for Congress according to June 30th FEC reports filed by the campaign [Source: Federal Elections Commission, Honeycutt for Congress Itemized Disbursements, June 25, 2008].

David Knox, the owner of DK Intermedia, told the Atlanta Journal Constitution in a June 25th article that he was not working for the Honeycutt campaign; a claim that was corroborated by the Honeycutt campaign itself.

"David Knox, a Web developer who worked for Honeycutt's 2005 GOP campaign, heads the group [Democrats for Good Government]. Both Knox and Honeycutt say Knox is not working for the Republican candidate's 2008 campaign," [Source: Atlanta Journal Constitution, "Rep. Scott clears some debts," June 25, 2008].

In an email response to questions concerning his involvement with the Honeycutt campaign, David Knox disputed the June 30th FEC reports and continued to deny working for the Honeycutt campaign.

"There is no record on the 2008 FEC report concerning David Knox or DK Intermedia and that is the truth." Knox wrote.

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# **Vote Out David Scott.com**

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# **Andre Walker Scott Consultant! For**

# Real House production of the Control of the Control

Andre Walker interest consultant and pitch reporter has been selectiveously acting as the breas mouth place for David Scott (Incumbent, GA 13 US Senses) in his on-line blog colled the GA Politics Unfiltered which is apparently operated and funded by David Scott. Andre has a history of attacking supers who deem't like David Scott. Which includes David Knox, Danselle-James and Deborch Henrycutt (two venues he has also called the "b" word).

Andre on Sunday, July 6, 2008 posted this on his blog

"Democrata for Good Government" Lender Geta Money From Republican Candidate
Domino tolking the Atlanta Journal Constitution otherwise, a company owned by the head of a group called "Democrata for Good Government" resolved two payments for "Internet consulting" from Republican Debacah Homeyeatt's congressional company.

This is information about payments is unfounded. There is no record of payments or activity connecting Democrate Per Good Government to any car's company for 2004, paint, blank, packed. Parthermore, Welliar meetings at the end of his report that he attempted to reach me (at 1000 on Sunday meeting and then published his blog at 1000 on PCT - Prime Church Time!) Who is he kidding! Any God fearing Christian able to move, would be in church on Sunday meeting and not at their computer webing for some unknown choracter working for David Scott sealing annals.

What is more interesting is that Andre Walker is only covering the 15th District ross. Why because it's the only rose of interest for David Scott his corrupt beneficior. Could approx. \$2,000.00 have any thing to do with 17 Open Secrets talk all about it at their site or go to the FEC shall

Also didn't David Scott say in the AJC that Hillary Cliaton was his condidate for 2006 President but now in soon spensoring Senator Barak. Obsesse? Word But that was only reported in his hing.

I colled the APC and salud these to run a story about 15th Distint US Congress Sensior David Scott hilling behind the skirt of his interest consultant Andre Wallow sky "Madion Avenus" who is being publicy a political condidate. I den't know if they are in bed together or not, but Wallow and Scott need to concentrate on heading the truth and not private citiess.

No Clackshoer Recovery- We only work for the government put-time (narrotnes the root of the time)

Assessment by Democracle for Good Conversance)